

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS
OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Brief Description
The Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposes to adopt regulations for authorizing oil and gas exploration and development within oil and gas lease sale areas to implement new legislation enacted in 2013, and to amend application requirements for oil and gas lease plans of operations.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 11, Chapter 83 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with oil and gas exploration and development by geographical area, and oil and gas lease plans of operations.

The DNR proposes to amend its regulation on oil and gas lease plans of operations, **11 AAC 83.158**, to clarify when plans of operations are required; to specify additional information required to be submitted with an application; and to define terms used in the regulation.

The DNR proposes to adopt a new article entitled “**Article 7. Exploration and Development by Geographical Area**” to establish procedures and criteria for authorizing oil and gas exploration and development activities within existing oil and gas lease sale areas, including the following:

- **11 AAC 83.650, Purpose**, which defined the purpose of the regulations to establish procedures to implement Alaska Statute 38.05.035(o).
- **11 AAC 83.660, Geographical area for exploration**, which specifies the criteria for delineating an oil and gas exploration area.
- **11 AAC 83.665, Geographical area for development**, which specifies the criteria for delineating an oil and gas development area.
- **11 AAC 83.670, Criteria**, which specifies the criteria and information the DNR will consider when evaluating how it will authorize oil and gas exploration and development in a geographical area.
- **11 AAC 83.675, Public notice**, which specifies how the DNR will conduct its public notice for authorizing oil and gas exploration and development in a geographical area.
- **11 AAC 83.695, Definitions**, which defines terms used in the proposed regulations.

The DNR proposes to amend the article headings in 11 AAC 83 for Articles 7 through 10 to insert the new Article 7, and to renumber the existing articles accordingly.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas, Attention: Bob Pawlowski, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560. Comments may be submitted on-line at: <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/ContactUs/PublicComment.htm>; or by e-mail to DOG.Comments@alaska.gov, or by facsimile at (907) 269-8938. **Written comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., on Monday, August 19, 2013.** Comments received after this date will not be considered in final action on these regulations.

If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Bob Pawlowski at (907) 269-8800, or TDD (907) 269-8411, no later than August 7, 2013, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, go to <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/AboutUs/PublicNotices.htm#pnother>; or contact Bob Pawlowski, Division of Oil and Gas, Department of Natural Resources, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560; by phone at (907) 269-8800; by facsimile at (907) 269-8938; or by e-mail at bob.pawlowski@alaska.gov. The proposed regulations are also available on the Alaska Online Public Notices website at: <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=169008>.

After the **public comment period ends on August 19, 2013**, the DNR will either adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. **YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.** Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection.

Statutory Authority: AS 38.05.020, AS 38.05.035, AS 38.05.130, AS 38.05.131, AS 38.05.145, AS 38.05.180, AS 38.05.945

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 38.05.035(o)

Fiscal Information: The legislature appropriated funds for FY 2014 to implement the legislation authorizing oil and gas exploration and development by geographical area, CSHB-129(FIN). The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an additional appropriation.

Dated: July 12, 2013
Anchorage, Alaska

_____/s/
William C. Barron, Director
Division of Oil and Gas